



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

8 JULY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Palmdale – Deputies Seize More Than 90 Illegal Firearms

(U) Officials with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Wednesday reported the arrest of a convicted felon who was in possession of more than 90 illegal and untraceable ghost guns. Deputies from the sheriff's Palmdale station discovered the illegal firearms during a search warrant operation. In addition to the ghost guns, deputies seized high-capacity magazines, approximately 1,000 rounds of ammunition and narcotics.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [CBS Los Angeles](#)

(U) Truckee – Woman Arrested for Starting Butterfield Fire

(U) Police said they determined the cause of the wildfire that broke out near Truckee yesterday afternoon, triggering evacuations and burning 12 acres. After conducting a joint investigation with Cal Fire personnel, the Truckee Police Department said that a woman was taken into custody once they discovered evidence that showed she was responsible for lighting several spot fires that ignited the 12-acre blaze. The suspect admitted to setting the fires intentionally, police said.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [SF Gate](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Officials Intercept Dozens of Undocumented Immigrants over Holiday Weekend

(U) Federal border agents stopped eight groups of undocumented immigrants who tried to cross the US-Mexico border, some by land but more by sea, over the Fourth of July weekend, officials said yesterday. Customs and Border Protection officials said the attempted water crossings included people swimming, vessels making stealth runs under the cover of darkness and at least two watercraft that tried to blend in with recreational boaters. The uptick in attempts coincided with pleasant weather and ocean conditions, as well as increased water recreation during the holiday weekend, authorities said.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [The San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Haitian Gang Member Charged with Kidnapping Americans

(U) Washington — The US Justice Department yesterday said it had charged a Haitian gang member with hostage-taking for his role in the kidnapping of 16 American missionaries last year. Jean Pelice is a member of the 400 Mawozo gang and was transferred into US custody on 16 May, according to the statement from the department. In May, Haitian gang leader Joly "Yonyon" Germine became the first defendant charged in the crime that brought global attention to the power of gangs in the Caribbean nation. He has pleaded not guilty. Two of the hostages were released in November, and three more in December. The group that organized the missionaries' trip, Christian Aid Ministries, later said the remaining hostages escaped.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – US Charges Two in Chinese Spying Scheme

(U) Brooklyn — US prosecutors charged two men tied to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as part of what federal law enforcement officials have called a "transnational repression scheme" on behalf of the Chinese government to spy on and harass dissidents living in the United States. The two charged were Craig Miller, who has worked as a DHS deportation officer for 15 years in Minnesota, and Derrick Taylor, a retired DHS law enforcement agent now working as a private investigator in California, the US Department of Justice said yesterday. On Wednesday, a grand jury returned an indictment charging the two men and three others with crimes committed while acting as alleged Chinese agents, the department said in a statement. Of the three other individuals, two were previously arrested as part of an earlier related complaint in March: Fan "Frank" Liu and Matthew Ziburis. The third individual, Qiang "Jason" Sun, remains at large, prosecutors for the Eastern District of New York said.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Finland – Government to Boost Security at Russian Border

(U) Helsinki – Finland's Parliament yesterday passed amended legislation on border security that allows for the closure of crossing points with Russia amid fears that Moscow could choose to send large numbers of migrants to the frontier. The move by lawmakers came just two days after NATO's 30 members signed formal accession protocols for Finland and Sweden to join the alliance — an outcome that has angered Russia. The two Nordic nations' membership bids were approved at a NATO summit at the end of June in Madrid. The amendments approved by Finnish lawmakers will give government led by Prime Minister Sanna Marin wider powers to restrict border traffic in exceptional situations particularly on the 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border with Russia, the longest of any European Union member. The changes would also allow Finland, a nation of 5.5 million, to build barriers and fences along the border with Russia if needed. Finnish President Sauli Niinisto is due to sign the amendments into law on Friday.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Japan – Former Prime Minister Assassinated

(U) Nara – Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated during a campaign speech today. He was 67. Abe was in the city of Nara in western Japan giving a speech in support of his party's candidates in the upcoming upper house elections when he was suddenly gunned down. He was airlifted to a hospital where he was later pronounced dead, according to hospital officials. Nara prefectural police arrested the alleged gunman identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, and recovered a weapon, described as a handmade shotgun, at the scene of the attack. The attack and a motive remains under investigation, but police said the suspect told investigators that he was dissatisfied with the former prime minister and intended to kill him.

SOURCE: 8 July 2022, [ABC News](#)

(U) Mexico – Officials Seize 1,200 Pounds of Fentanyl

(U) Mexico City – Mexico's army and National Guard announced yesterday what they called a "historic" seizure of over a half-ton of fentanyl at a warehouse in the northern city of Culiacan. "This is the largest seizure in history of this lethal drug," said Assistant Public Safety Secretary Ricardo Mejia, estimating the fentanyl had an illicit value of around \$230 million. The nearly 1,200 pounds found at the warehouse could have produced millions of the counterfeit pills in which fentanyl is usually offered. Mexico's Defense Department said the warehouse was located in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa state, home to the drug cartel of the same name, and 10 men were arrested.

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [Associated Press](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) United Kingdom – MI5, FBI Give Joint Warning of Growing Threat from China

(U) London – The heads of MI5 and the FBI warned of the growing long-term threat posed by China to UK and US interests, in their first joint appearance on Wednesday. MI5 Director General Ken McCallum said the service has already "more than doubled our previously-constrained effort against Chinese activity of concern," adding it was running seven times as many investigations as in 2018. FBI Director Christopher Wray said that the Chinese government "poses the biggest long-term threat" to economic and national security, for the UK, the US, and allies in Europe and elsewhere. "The Chinese government is trying to shape the world by interfering in our politics (and those of our allies, I should add)," Wray said, saying Beijing had directly interfered in a Congressional election in New York this year, as it did not want a candidate who was a critic and former protester at Tiananmen Square to be elected. Wray warned that the Chinese government "poses an even more serious threat to Western businesses than even many sophisticated businesspeople realize," and is "set on stealing your technology."

SOURCE: 7 July 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

UNCLASSIFIED